



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

June 9, 1998

H.R. 2812

Unrecognized Southeast Alaska Native Communities Recognition Act

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on May 20, 1998

SUMMARY

H.R. 2812 would amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act by allowing five communities in southeast Alaska to organize as Native corporations: four as urban corporations and one as a group corporation.

CBO estimates that implementing this bill would cost about \$1 million over the 1999-2003 period for grants to the five communities, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. H.R. 2812 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would have no significant impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 2812 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and the environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	1	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	0	a	a	a	0	0

a. Less than \$500,000.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

H.R. 2812 would amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act by allowing the Native residents of Haines, Ketchikan, Petersburg, and Wrangell, in southeast Alaska, to organize as urban corporations, and by allowing the Native residents of Tenakee, Alaska, to organize as a group corporation. H.R. 2812 would authorize grants of \$250,000 to each of the five Native communities for planning, development, and organization of the new corporations. The bill states that none of the changes made by H.R. 2812 would create any entitlement to federal lands for the new corporations without a subsequent act of the Congress. The bill would direct the Secretary of the Interior to prepare, by December 31, 1998, a report making recommendations to the Congress regarding lands and other appropriate compensation to be provided to the new corporations. CBO expects that preparing the report would have a negligible cost.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

H.R. 2812 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in UMRA and would have no significant impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments. This bill would give the new corporations no rights to property or resources, but it would direct the Secretary of the Interior to make recommendations to the Congress regarding lands and other appropriate compensation to be provided to these corporations. Further legislation would be required to provide any such compensation.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON THE PRIVATE SECTOR

This bill would impose no new private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

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